(5) Reiteration of instructions to Central and State Government departments to provide priority treatment to the requirements of approved 100 per cent EOUs.

Tribunal to settle excise and customs cases

*31. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a high level tribunal to settle expeditiously excise and customs cases which drag on for months and years in the courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) A proposal to set up a high powered Customs and Excise Revenue (Appellate) Tribunal under Article 323B of the Constitution, for more expeditious settlement of cases, is under consideration.

(b) Detailed proposals are being worked out in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

Vacant posts of Chairman and Members in the Nationalised Banks

*32. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Chairmen and non-official members are lying vacant in a large number of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) At present there are no vacancies of Chairmen and Managing Directors in the nationalised banks. There are, however, vacancies of non-official directors in the Boards of all the 20 nationalised banks. The process of selecting suitable persons for nomination against these vacancies is under way.

Demand for increasing the price of sugarcane

@*33. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a strong demand from the farmers to increase the price of sugarcane;

(b) what price Government have fixed for sugarcane in the last two years; and

(c) what were the demands of the farmers to increase sugarcane price and to what extent Government have accepted their demands?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The farmers have been representing from time to time for higher prices of sugarcane payable by sugar factories.

(b) For the current sugar season i.e. 1985-86, the statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories has been fixed at Rs. 16.50

@Previously Starred Question 13 transferred from the 21st February, 1986.

per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery, with proportionate premium for recoveries higher than 8.5 per cent. Last season, the minimum price fixed was Rs. 14.00 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery.

(c) The farmers have been demanding a price ranging from Rs. 28 to 50/- per quintal. The Government have, as stated in reply to part (b) above, increased the statutory minimum price by Rs. 2.50 per quintal this year. The actual prices, being received by the growers, however, range between Rs. 16.50 to Rs. 27/- per quintal.

Decline in drug trafficking

*34. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug trafficking showed a decline after the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 was brought into force on the 14th November, 1985; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity of drugs seized in the Punjab sector from the 15th November, 1985 to 31st January, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) As the new Act has come into force only with effect from 14th November, 1985, it is too early to assess its impact on drug trafficking. There has been a steep rise in the seizures of various drugs, consequent to the strengthening of the various enforcement machiney and equipping them with adequate powers under the Act.

(b) The quantity of drugs seized from the 15th November 1985 to 31st January, 1986 in the State of Punjab including the quantity seized on Pakistan border, is as under:—

Name of the drug	Quantity seized (Kgs.)
Opium . . .	1,113
Charas . . .	459
Heroin . . .	106

NOTE : Figures are provisional.

Production of carpets

*35. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of carpets, quality-wise, in finished form produced during 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and April 1985-January 1986 under the Carpet Weaving Training Scheme at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) what are the details of the service centres where the third stage of the syllabus for carpet weaving training was completed with details of the Centres during 1981-82 and 1982-83; and

(c) what are the reasons for not completing third stage of the syllabus in any service centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working of Public Sector Banks

*36. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector banks have made huge profits during 1985;